Decline in priority sector accounts

†2196. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of accounts in the priority sector is decreasing continously;

(b) if not, the number of said accounts in the public sector banks at the end of March 1998 and March 2003 separately; and

(c) the total amount disbursed through these accounts during the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) and (b) The number of accounts under the overall priority sector advances has decreased from 291 lakh as on March 1998 to 268 lakh (provisional) as on March 2003, after showing an undulating trend in the intervening period.

(c) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Action against officials of UTI

†2197. SHRI RAM JETHMALAI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that JPC has urged Govenment to identify and punish the officials guilty in the US-64 scam;

(b) if so, whether Government have since identified the guilty officials;

(c) if so, the names of such officials along with the post they are holding; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the action taken by Government against each of the guilty official separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Inflation Rate

†2198. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that in the week ending 4th October, 2003 the inflation rate had reached upto 5.08 per cent;

(b) if not, the fact in this regard;

(c) whether it is also fact that the said rise in inflation rate was the outcome of the price rise of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the names of the foodgrains alongwith the rise in the price thereof separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The WPI based provisional inflation rate for the week ending 4th October, 2003 was 5.08 per cent. However, the final inflation rate for the same week was revised upward to 5.32 per cent.

(c) and (d) As per the final WPI based inflation rate for the week ending 4th October, 2003, there was no increase in the prices of foodgrains group. However, the inflation rate for rice, wheat and gram for the same week were 3.1 per cent, 0.34 per cent and (-) 8.05 per cent respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi